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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Patel et al.  
Serial No. 09/221,110  
Filed: 12/28/1998  
For: TELEPHONE NETWORK MANAGEMENT METHOD AND DEVICES

Examiner: Harper, Kevin C.  
Art Unit: 2664

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box CPA  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
10/25/02

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The following is a preliminary amendment accompanying a continued prosecution application. If any fees are required in association with this response, the Director is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account 50-1732, and consider this a petition therefor.

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In accordance with another aspect of the invention, operations and management data between a telephony switch and a computing device are exchanged by establishing at least first and second network connections between the computing device and the telephony switch over a packet switched data network; exchanging data having a first priority over the first network connection; and concurrently exchanging data having a second priority over the second network connection. Again, multiple connections facilitate the exchange of messages compliant with at least one existing telephony switch/network operations and management protocol.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Alternatively, a circuit could be established between device 22 and device 18. Device 22 could exchange NTM OS messages, as documented in the TR-NWT-000746 document using a physical link connecting device 22 to device 18 (using, for example, interface 36) (FIGS. 1 and 2), and the BX.25 protocol. Modified NDC OS software 48 could establish a session with SDM platform 14 over network 16 and pass NTM OS messages between SDM platform 14 (by way of